

Dr. William Stokes, Director:

Dear Dr. Stokes:

It has come to my attention that after years of protest from animal activists, the LD50 Test (in which animals are force fed chemicals to estimate the dose needed to kill 50% of them) is slowly being phased out internationally and is being replaced with tests that use fewer animals [or none at all]. I also understand that a recent workshop held by NIEHS, addressed the feasibility of going one step further and replacing the animal tests completely with in-vitro cell culture tests. Scientists at the NIEHS workshop have agreed to a partial implementation of in vitro testing, to set a "starting dose" for the lethal poisoning tests, which would have the effect of further reducing the number of animals in the tests. Knowing that NIEHS is inviting the public to comment on the findings of these scientists and the use of in-vitro cell cultures as a replacement for lethal animal tests, I am writing today to urge you to please begin efforts to completely replace lethal dose testing with non-animal, in vitro testing methods. I feel this change is in the best interest of the tax payers as well as the animals whose lives are needlessly taken.

Thank you,
Annette Swartz